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Letter dated 3 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to communicate to you the following with regard to the letter dated 21 April 1994 addressed to you by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (S/1994/497):

> The Republic of Albania totally rejects the letter mentioned above as full of slanders and unfounded accusations against Albania and its Mission to the United Nations, as a letter with ill intentions and confusing ones. At the beginning I want to make it clear that this is not the first time that the Belgrade authorities have defamed the Republic of Albania. We are used to often reading in such letters, about the alleged "anti-Yugoslav policy" of the international community in general and of certain countries in particular. However, a response must be given to the unfounded accusations that have been made unjustly against a peace-loving country of the Balkans, accusations that constitute a shabby attempt to divert the attention of the international community from the catastrophe in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina resulting from and prolonged by Serbian aggression. A similar attempt is being made to deflect international concern at the grave situation in Kosovo.
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> The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania rejects totally as mere slander the allegations concerning alleged "organizing and inciting demonstrations" referred to in the second paragraph of the letter. The activity of the Albanian Mission has always been and will be carried out in full accordance with its status and with the well-known international norms, based on the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

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* A/49/50/Rev.1.

The position of Albania towards international problems, and towards the conflict in the former Yugoslavia in particular, has been openly declared, including at the United Nations. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania, acting in a constructive manner, has always followed the right and peaceful policy of Albania.

The Republic of Albania rejects completely the slanders contained in the fifth paragraph of the letter concerning the alleged "training camps for terrorist groups" or the "attempts to provide arms" for the Albanians of Kosovo. Such accusations are obviously unfounded, ugly and propagandistic in their aim. Albania is a peaceful country and open even for inspections of a military character. For one year and a half, in Albania, precisely at that part of the border referred to in the letter, the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) has been deployed. Albania cooperates closely with the international community in order to prevent the extension of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia to other areas, thus contributing significantly to peace and stability.

Likewise, the Albanians in the former Yugoslavia have not chosen war as the means of achieving their expressed aspirations and will. On the other hand, it is well known who is responsible for the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia. It is also well known whom the phrases "aggressive policy", "source of danger for peace and security in the Balkan region" and so on do fit.

At the same time, we declare to the Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and to its Government that we will not cease to support the just demands of the Albanians of Kosovo who, deprived of even the basic rights, are striving to gain their legitimate rights. The Yugoslav side cannot uncover what we have already uncovered ourselves publicly in our speeches to the General Assembly and to the Security Council, as well as in our communications with the Secretary-General. It was not we who in 1974 gave autonomy to the 2 million Albanians in Kosovo, nor were we the ones who destroyed that autonomy in 1989. The Belgrade authorities did this. The "hot-bed of crisis" referred to in the fourth paragraph of the letter has already been created by those authorities. The cause for the reaction of the Albanians to the strategy of "ethnic cleansing", to the closure of schools and the press in the Albanian language and to the police and military repression launched against them, and their reaction to the expulsion of the missions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe from Kosovo must be sought in the Serbian policy itself. The cause for this reaction lies with the Serbian authorities themselves.

Our merit consists in the alarming appeal we have made to the world community regarding what has been going on in Kosovo for several years. However, it gives us no pleasure to prophesy today the fire that Serbia will tomorrow attempt to kindle in Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, after the fire in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but this time a fire with horrible consequences for the Balkans, Europe and even beyond.

Finally, I reaffirm that the Republic of Albania remains fully committed to respect the Charter of the United Nations as well as all other international documents that also constitute the fundamental principles on which the policy of Albania is based.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under item 72 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pellumb KULLA
Permanent Representative